The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has prepared a draft "The Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005", to provide a legislative frame for recognition of the afore-mentioned rights, a consultation with the concerned Ministries, including the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

The Bill was posted on the website of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs seeking comments/suggestions from the members of the public, the social activists, academicians, anthropologists, the experts working for the cause of environmental protection and welfare of tribal people and other stakeholders on the proposed legislation till 10.7.2005. The Ministry has received comments/suggestions from a large number of individuals/organizations. The proposed Bill is still a tentative draft Bill and to be finalised as per the established procedure taking views and comments received from the stakeholders into consideration.

Hostels for STs students

† 2773. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for Rs. 724.00 lakhs are pending with Government for construction of hostels for Scheduled Tribes boys/girls; and

(b) if so, by when this amount would be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have received proposals for release of grants in aid for construction of Boys/Girls Hostels from various State Governments. These proposals are for different amounts. In so far as the proposal of Rs. 724.00 lakhs, it apparently relates to Government of Madhya Pradesh. This amount can be considered for release during the current financial year *i.e.* 2005-06 subject to availability of funds, within the allocation of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and a confirmation from the State Government that they have made provision for State share in their budget. State Government has already been advised in this regard but no proposal has been received from the State Government.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.